

## Poland

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This outline can help you find information about people who lived in Poland. It gives information about records of genealogical value for Poland and helps you decide which types of records to search.

### HELPS FOR USING THIS RESEARCH OUTLINE

Before using this outline, choose the information you would like to know about one of your ancestors, such as a birth date or a maiden name. After you have decided what information you want to learn, use the record selection table in this outline to find the best types of records for locating that information.

There is a section in the outline for each type of record listed in columns 2 and 3 of the record selection table. The sections give more information about these records and how to find them. The sections are in alphabetical order.

#### References to the *Family History Library Catalog*

The *Family History Library Catalog* (see page 2) lists all the records available at the Family History Library. The catalog is available at the Family History Library and at each family history center. Staff there can help you learn to use the catalog.

This outline gives instructions for finding information in the catalog. For example, in the section of this outline called “Census,” you may find the following statement:

For more information about census records, look in the locality search section of the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

POLAND - CENSUS  
POLAND, [COUNTY] - CENSUS  
POLAND, [COUNTY], [CITY] - CENSUS

This tells you to look in the catalog under:

- Poland and then “Census.”
- A county in Poland and then “Census.”
- A city in a county in Poland and then “Census.”

This outline includes many references to specific records. The references include call numbers listed in parentheses, which are used to find records in the Family History Library (FHL). Each book, film, fiche, or map is assigned a call number.

For additional information on using the catalog, see *Using the Family History Library Catalog* (30966).

### References to Other Family History Library Publications

The Family History Library has many other publications that may help you in your research. Some are referred to in this outline. Their titles are in italics and their item numbers are in parentheses. They are available at the Family History Library and the Salt Lake City Distribution Center at:

Salt Lake Distribution Center  
P.O. Box 26368  
Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368  
Tel. 1-800-537-5971  
Fax 1-800-240-3685  
Internet: <http://www.familysearch.org/>

## THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

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The key to finding a record in the Family History Library’s collection is the *Family History Library Catalog*. The catalog describes each record in the library and lists the call numbers. It is available on microfiche and on compact disc as part of FamilySearch™, a computer program available at family history centers and on the Internet. It is at the Family History Library and at each family history center. It may also be found under “custom search” on the following Internet site:

<http://www.familysearch.org/>

The *Family History Library Catalog* on microfiche is divided into four sections:

- Locality
- Subject
- Surname
- Author/Title

The *Family History Library Catalog* on compact disc also has four types of searches:

- Locality Search
- Film Number Search
- Surname Search
- Computer Number Search

To find the call numbers of the records described in this outline, use the locality section on microfiche or the locality search on compact disc. The section headings in this outline that describe types of records, such as “Church Records,” are the same as the subjects used in the microfiche edition of the *Family History Library Catalog* and the topics used in the compact disc edition.

The catalog generally uses the native language that the records are written in to describe the records. The description includes a brief English summary of the content.

The locality section lists records according to the area they cover. Records relating to the entire country, such as emigration and immigration records, are listed under Poland. Most records are listed under a specific *county* or *city* or *parish* as follows:

POLAND, [COUNTY], [CITY]

For example, in the locality section look for:

- The place where an ancestor lived, such as:  
  
POLAND, KIELCE, LIPSKO
- Then the *record type* you want, for example:  
*census, probates, or church records.*

POLAND, KIELCE, LIPSKO - CHURCH RECORDS

The catalog is based on the county structure as instituted in 1975. For additional information

about localities in Poland, see “Gazetteers,” “Historical Geography,” “History,” and “Maps” in this outline.

This outline also provides some of the library’s call numbers. These are preceded by FHL, the abbreviation for *Family History Library*.

If you need more information on using the *Family History Library Catalog*, a short video program *How to Use the Family History Library Catalog* (53191), written instructions, and librarians are available to help you.

### Polish Records Listed under Other Countries

For records of Germans who lived in areas that are now part of Poland, you should refer to the *German Research Outline* (34061). Localities that were part of Poland but are now part of Belarus, Ukraine, and other countries are listed under the old town name as well as the modern town name in the *Family History Library Catalog*.

For more information, see “Historical Geography” in this outline.

## INTERNET

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The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, news groups, and commercial on-line services can help you:

- Locate other researchers.
- Post queries.
- Send and receive e-mail.
- Search large databases.
- Search directories.
- Search library catalogs.
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions.

Researching by computer can be very rewarding, but it also has its limitations. It takes time and practice to learn how to navigate the Internet. And some of the documents you need may not yet be available on the Internet.

Local genealogical societies often have computer interest groups or members who are familiar with computer genealogical research. Following are some

general Internet sites which will lead you to other interesting Polish Internet resources:

- Cyndi’s List of Polish Genealogical Sites:  
<http://www.cyndislist.com/poland.htm>  
Catalog of genealogical sites on the Internet by topic and country. Includes references to other Internet sites, mailing lists, people and families, news groups, publications, transcriptions of records, societies, villages, and colonies.
- LDS Church Genealogical Home-Page:  
<http://www.familysearch.org/>  
Access the *Family History Library Catalog*, Ancestral File, International Genealogical Index, *SourceGuide*, lists of family history centers, family history-related web sites, and lists of researchers interested in similar genealogical topics. Learn about and order Family History Library publications.
- World GenWeb page for Poland:  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~polwgg/polandgen.html>  
Contains tools for researching in Poland.
- Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies:  
<http://feefhs.org/>  
Includes links to many Polish or Polish-American Family History Societies’ home pages.

Other useful genealogical research sites are discussed under specific sections in this outline. For more information on using the Internet for genealogical research, see *Family History and the Internet Resource Guide* (36381).

### Records Selection Table

The following table can help you decide which records to search. In column 1 find the goal you selected. In column 2 find the types of records that are most likely to have the information you need. Then turn to that section of this outline. Additional records that may be useful are listed in column 3.

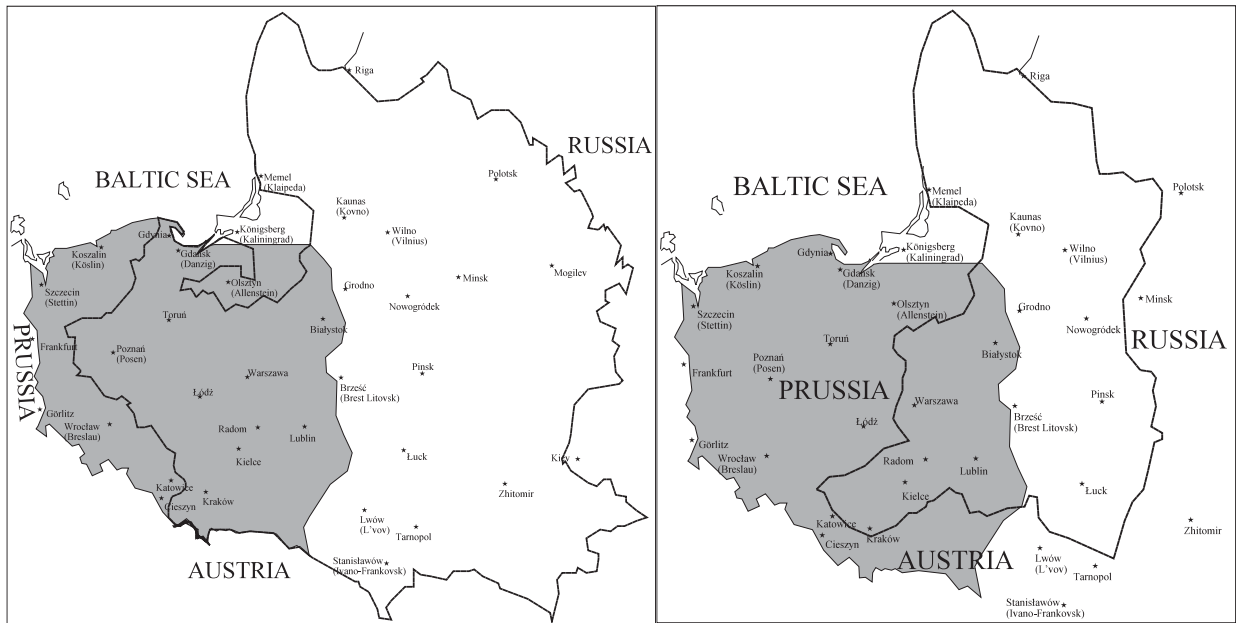
The terms used in columns 2 and 3 are the same as the topic headings used in this outline and in the locality section of the *Family History Library Catalog*.

Records containing previous research (genealogy, biography, history, periodicals, and societies) could provide information for nearly all the goals. These have not been repeatedly listed unless they are especially helpful for the goal.

<b>RECORDS SELECTION TABLE: Poland</b>		
<b>1. If You Need</b>	<b>2. Look First In</b>	<b>3. Then Search</b>
Age	Church Records, Civil Registration, Jewish Records	Census, Naturalizations and Citizenship
Birth date	Church Records, Civil Registration, Jewish Records	Census, Naturalizations and Citizenship
City or parish of foreign birth	Emigration and Immigration, Naturalizations and Citizenship	Church Records, Obituaries, Schools
Country of foreign birth	Census, Emigration and Immigration, Naturalizations and Citizenship	Church Records, Military Records
County origins and boundaries	Atlases	Maps, Gazetteers
Customs	History	Encyclopedias
Death	Church Records, Civil Registration	Cemeteries
Divorce	Civil Registration, Court Records	
Ethnicity	Minorities, Jewish Records	History
Historical background	History, Church History	Societies
Immigration date	Census (U.S. 1900, 1910, 1920), Emigration and Immigration	Naturalizations and Citizenship
Living relatives	Directories, Internet	
Maiden name	Church Records, Civil Registration	Obituaries
Marriage	Church Records, Civil Registration	Genealogy, Newspapers
Occupation	Church Records, Civil Registration, Occupations, Directories	Population
Parents, children, and other family members	Church Records, Civil Registration	Cemeteries, Obituaries, Probate Records
Physical description	Military Records, Biography	Genealogy
Place-finding aids	Atlases, Gazetteers, Maps	Historical Geography
Place of residence	Church Records, Civil Registration	Population, Directories, Census, Land and Property
Previous research (compiled genealogy)	Genealogy, Periodicals, Biography, Nobility	Societies
Record-finding aids	Church Directories, Archives and Libraries	Societies, Periodicals
Religion	Church Records, Civil Registration, Jewish Records	Obituaries

## Maps of Poland

The borders of Poland have changed many times over the years. The modern borders are highlighted on the maps shown below, giving a point of comparison for each of the maps.



**Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth  
Prior to Partitioning in 1772**

**Poland 1793 – 2nd Partition**



**Poland 1772 – 1st Partition**

**Poland 1795 – 3rd Partition**  
Poland divided between Prussia, Austria,  
and Russia.



**DUCHY OF WARSAW, 1807-1813 (Napoleon)**



**Congress Poland or Kingdom of Poland was part of the Russian Empire, west of the dotted line, 1815-1921**

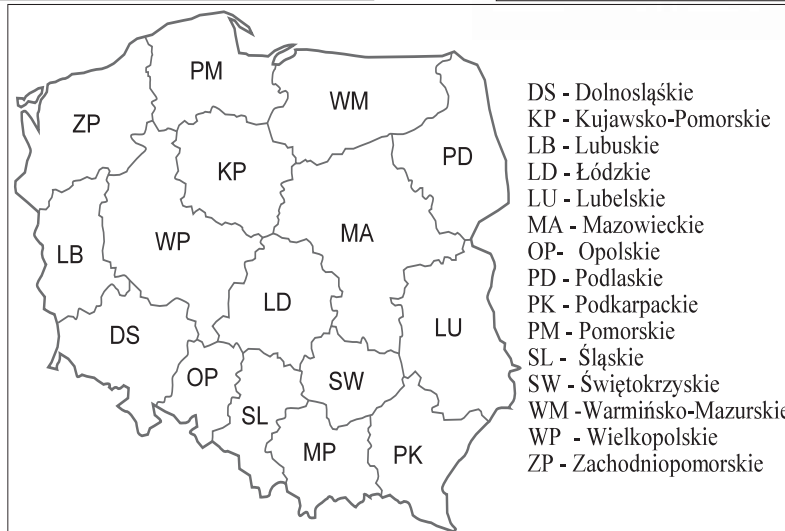


**INDEPENDENT POLAND, 1921-1939, After World War II, the borders of Poland shifted west, taking parts of Pommern and Brandenburg and giving up parts of Grodno, Volhynia, and Vilna to Russia.**





Counties of Poland, 1921-1939. Eastern counties later became part of Russian Empire. These counties are included in 1934 gazetteer.



Counties of Poland, 1967, as used in the Family History Library Catalog.

Counties [*Województwa*] of Poland 1999

## ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

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Archives collect and preserve original documents of organizations such as governments or churches. Libraries generally collect published sources such as books, maps, and microfilm. This section describes the major repositories of genealogical and historical records and sources for Poland. When one of these institutions is referred to elsewhere in this outline, return to this section to obtain the address.

If you plan to visit a repository in Poland, contact the organization and ask for information about its collection, hours, services, and fees.

Although the original records you need may be in an archive or library in Poland, the Family History Library may have a microfilm copy of them. The library has copies of many records from Polish archives.

The Polish government collects records relating to Polish history, culture, and people. These include records of genealogical value such as:

- Transcripts of church records.
- Jewish records and church records no longer in the possession of the church. This includes many Protestant church records.
- Civil registration turned in by local civil registration offices.
- Census returns.
- Court records.
- Military records.
- Emigration lists.
- Land records.

Poland has two major types of genealogical repositories: government-run archives and offices and church-run archives. Government-run archives include the state and provincial archives as well as the civil registry offices.

Helpful guides to addresses of Polish repositories are:

*Archiwa w Polsce: Informator adresowy* (Archives in Poland: Informant of Addresses). Warszawa: Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych, 1996. (FHL book 943.8 J54ap.) This guide describes the services of the archives and libraries in Poland as well as some limited information for major archives and libraries in other areas of the world.

Lewanski, Richard C. *Guide to Polish Libraries and Archives*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1974. (FHL book 943.8 J541.)

### State Archives

There are several regional state archives. These collect civil records and civil transcripts (copies) of church records. Recent records, generally those less than 100 years old, are kept at local civil registration offices (*Urząd Stanu Cywilnego*).

The state archives of Poland are not open to the public. Limited access is offered only to scholars who have first acquired permission from the state archive where they plan to visit. Some of the materials you need may be found in local church and civil offices.

Microfilm copies of many records at the Polish State Archives are available at the Family History Library, but the state archives have several records that have not yet been filmed. If the records you need are not in the Family History Library collection, you may request information from, or photocopies of, the records you need by writing to the Directorate of the Polish State Archives (*Naczelna Dyrekcja*). They will forward your request to the appropriate state archive.

- Naczelna Dyrekcja  
Archiwów Państwowych  
Ul. Długa 6 skr. poczt. 1005  
00-950 Warszawa  
Poland  
Tel.: 48 22 31-32-06  
Fax: 48 22 31-75-63

Naczelna Dyrekcja has published two books about the holdings of all the national archives in Poland:



Biernata, Andrzej and Anny Laszuk. *Archiwa państwowe w Polsce, Przewodnik po zasobach* (State Archives in Poland, Guide to Resources). Warszawa: “DiG”, 1998. (FHL book 943.8J54a 1998.)

Laszuk, Anna. *Księgi metrykalne i stanu cywilnego w archiwach państwowych w Polsce, Informator* (Parish and Civil Registration Records at State Archives in Poland, Directory). Warszawa: Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych, 1998. (FHL book 943.8 J53k.)

### Branches of State Archives of Poland

Regional branches of the State Archives, located in major cities, collect records of the area they serve. Addresses of these archives are available on several Internet sites:

<http://argo.hist.uj.edu.pl/archiwa.htm>  
[http://www.pgsa.org/archives\\_eng.htm](http://www.pgsa.org/archives_eng.htm)  
[http://ciu.w.warman.net.pl/alf/archiwa/mapa/index\\_eng.html](http://ciu.w.warman.net.pl/alf/archiwa/mapa/index_eng.html)

For a listing of Polish archives with connections to the Internet see:

<http://ciu.w.warman.net.pl/alf/archiwa/internet/index.html>

### Provincial or County Archives

In Poland many provinces have their own repositories for records pertaining to their area that are separate from those of the national government. Many records of genealogical value are kept by these archives, including:

- Birth, marriage, and death records.
- Census records (when available).
- Land records.
- Some church records.

The provincial archives of Poland are not open to the public. Limited access is offered only to scholars and those who have received specific permission in writing from the Polish Directorate of the Polish State Archives in Warszawa.

### Local Civil Offices

In Poland records created by the local government less than 100 years ago—including birth, death, and marriage records—are kept in local offices. These records are not available to the public. For more information about these offices (which are comparable to county courthouses and town halls in the U.S.) and their records, see “Civil Registration” in this outline.

You can get information about records kept at local civil offices by writing to them. See *Polish Letter-Writing Guide* (36339).

### Church Archives

Church archives collect records generated by the church, such as parish registers. Each diocese has its own policies regarding gathering records into the archive of the diocese. Generally, older records are found in the diocesan archives; more recent records are found at the local parish.

Some Catholic dioceses have gathered older records into a diocesan archive. You can write to these archives and request brief searches of their records. See “Church Records” in this outline.

Protestant church records are often difficult to locate in Poland; many have been lost due to wars and boundary changes. But some records have been filmed and are listed in the *Family History Library Catalog*. For a complete listing of Protestant Church archives and repositories, see references in the “church directories” section of this guide.

Many church records are kept by local parishes, which may also have earlier records. You can write to local parishes and church archives for information. See “Church Records” in this outline.

### Other Libraries

Some useful sources—such as local histories, city directories, maps, newspapers, and genealogies—are available in major libraries in Poland and the United States. Contact these libraries and ask about their collection, hours, services, and fees.

## Historical and Genealogical Societies

Very few historical and genealogical societies exist in Poland. Such societies may maintain libraries that collect genealogical records. For more information, including addresses of some societies, see “Societies” in this outline.

## Inventories, Registers, and Catalogs

Many archives have catalogs, inventories, guides, or periodicals that describe their records and how to use them. If possible, study these guides before you visit an archive so that you can use your time more effectively.

The Family History Library has copies of several published inventories, catalogs, directories, and guides of other libraries. These records are listed in the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

POLAND - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES  
POLAND, (COUNTY) - ARCHIVES AND  
LIBRARIES

## BIOGRAPHY

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A biography is a history of a person’s life. In a biography you may find the individual’s birth, marriage, and death information and the names of parents, children, or other family members. Use the information carefully because there may be inaccuracies. There are a few biographical sources for Poland, but these include only the most notable citizens.

Some brief biographies have been published in collective biographies, sometimes called biographical encyclopedias or dictionaries. Usually these include biographies of only prominent or well-known citizens of Poland. Others feature biographies of specific groups of people, such as Protestant pastors.

A significant collection of Polish biographies compiled from the many biographical works that have been published is:

*Polskie archiwum biograficzne*. (Polish biographical archive). München: K.G. Saur 199-. (FHL fiche 6109252–275.)

Collective biographies at the Family History Library are generally listed in the locality section of the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

POLAND - BIOGRAPHY  
POLAND, (COUNTY) - BIOGRAPHY  
POLAND, (COUNTY), (CITY) -  
BIOGRAPHY

You will also find some biographical information in Polish encyclopedias. See “Encyclopedias and Dictionaries” in this outline.

## CENSUS

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Censuses (counts and descriptions of populations) have been taken by the various governments of Poland, primarily for population studies, taxation, or military purposes.

The prime value of census records is for grouping families together. Poland has better sources for research, such as church records and civil registration.

The different types of population counts in Polish history have been lustrums (*lustracje*), household tax registers (*rejestr podatkowe*: 1675), Prussian population surveys (*przełłady*: 1789, 1793, 1797), and municipal revisions (*spisy ludności*: 1619, 1765, 1792). The Russian area of Poland, called Kingdom of Poland, had a government statistical institution called the Statistical Department with the General Administration Department (*Oddział Statystyczny przy Wydziale Administracji Ogólnej*), which was founded in 1847 to oversee the collection of statistical reports.

Contents vary according to the censuses and their purposes. For example, the census of 1793 for the region of South Prussia (area taken by Prussia in the 1793 partition) includes names of adult males and widows, number of people in each household, professions of the householders, but no ages.

The census of 1790–92 for areas of Poznań (Posen) and Kraków includes school-age children as well as adults and has dates of birth, marriage, and death. Later census records are more standard and include names of heads of families and their children in chronological order, sex, ages or dates and places of birth, civil status, occupations, duration of residency, and so on.

Many original census returns were destroyed, and only compiled information remains. Some census records still exist in archives but are usually not available to researchers. Some censuses are in the Main Archives of Ancient Documents (*Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych - AGAD*) in Warsaw; various district and municipal archives, such as Płock and Kraków; or even local parishes. It is uncertain where most Polish census records are kept, so you may have to contact various archives in the vicinity of the town where your ancestor lived.

The Family History Library has copies of census records for very few towns in Poland. These are listed in the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

POLAND, (PROVINCE), (TOWN) -  
CENSUS

Census records can provide information when other records are missing. Use the information with caution, however, since it may have been given to a census taker by any member of the family or a neighbor and could be incorrect.

Finding your ancestor in the census records of a large city, and learning the street where the family lived, will help you search records such as church records and civil registration. Sources that give street addresses for large cities in Poland include:

- City, occupational, or business directories.
- Civil certificates of birth, marriages, and deaths.
- Church records of christenings, burials, and marriages.
- Taxation records.

## CHURCH DIRECTORIES

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A church directory lists church officials, dioceses, and parishes. The following are some of the many genealogical uses for church directories:

- They list all the parishes in a diocese, so you can determine if your ancestor's village had a parish church. Many directories list all villages belonging to a parish.
- They usually provide the earliest date the parish existed.

- They may include historical information about each parish.
- They group parishes by clerical district, so you can easily determine all neighboring parishes.
- They provide the complete address (phone numbers may be outdated) of parishes and the address of the diocese headquarters.

Church directories exist for all of the dioceses in Poland. The Family History Library has copies of directories for many of the dioceses. Depending on the date of publication, information such as the priest's name may be out-of-date. The addresses and parish histories are usually still valid.

Church directories are listed in the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

POLAND - CHURCH DIRECTORIES  
POLAND, (COUNTY), (CITY OF DIOCESE) -  
CHURCH DIRECTORIES

To determine which Roman Catholic diocese has jurisdiction over the parish your ancestor lived in, use:

Müllerowa, Lidia. *Sieć parafialna Kościoła katolickiego w Polsce w 1970–72 r.* (Network of Parishes of the Roman Catholic Church in Poland for the years 1970–72). Lublin: Towarzystwo Naukowe Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego, 1975. (FHL book 943.8 K24m; FHL film 1045455.) Beginning on page 66, all Catholic parishes in Poland are listed in alphabetical order with the diocese and deanery to which they belong.

There is a directory for the Protestant parishes that still existed in 1979. To find which towns still have Evangelical Lutheran parishes, see:

*Kalendarz ewangelicki*, 1992. (Evangelical Yearbook, 1992). Warszawa: Zwiastun, 1991. (FHL book 943.8 K24ke [1992]; film 1183508 item 4 [1979]). Yearbook of the list of evangelical parishes with addresses is found on pages 279–97.

Most Catholic dioceses have sites on the Internet where you can obtain information about parishes. For Catholics see:

[http://www.opoka.org.pl/struktury\\_kosciola/diecezje/index.html](http://www.opoka.org.pl/struktury_kosciola/diecezje/index.html)

## **CHURCH HISTORY**

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Research procedures and genealogical sources are different for each religion. It is helpful to understand the historical events that led to the creation of records your family was listed in, such as parish registers.

### **Roman Catholic (*rzymsko-katolicki*)**

The Roman Catholic faith was accepted in Poland in A.D. 966 (the date considered to be the founding of Poland) and became the predominant faith in Poland by 1573. Although Protestantism made some inroads in the 1700s, Catholicism has remained the dominant religion of Poland.

### **Greek Catholic (*grecko-katolicki*)**

In 1595 Orthodox Ukrainians were formally brought into union with the Roman Catholic Church. They retained their orthodox liturgy and doctrine but recognized the authority of the Roman Catholic pope. This church is generally found in the southeast area of Poland. Many Greek Catholics affiliated with either the Russian Orthodox or the Roman Catholic church after they emigrated to the United States.

### **Orthodox (*prawosławny*)**

The Russian Orthodox faith stems from the Byzantine Church, which split with the Roman Catholic Church in 1054. Russian Orthodoxy gained a limited foothold in Congress Poland during Russia's control. Its members in Poland were predominantly of Russian or Belorussian ethnic background.

### **Protestant (*ewangelicki*)**

Because Poland is predominantly Catholic, many religious groups were severely persecuted until the

Warsaw Confederation in 1573, when toleration laws were passed and the various Christian denominations were assured protection by the state. Thereafter, Poland became a haven for people who were persecuted elsewhere. Many persecuted Protestant groups were offered safe shelter in Poland, including Anabaptists, Bohemian Brethren, and others. Mennonites, Baptists, Brethren, Calvinists, and other groups have existed in Poland since the mid-1500s.

Calvinism, or the Evangelical Reformed Church, gained some followers among the Polish gentry. A few Calvinist Swiss refugees settled in Poland quite early. Most Calvinists in Poland were limited to ethnic Swiss Germans and were far fewer in number than the Lutherans.

Although Lutheranism (the Augsburg Confession or Evangelical Church) had only a small following in Poland, they did become firmly established among the German population. The Prussian provinces of Pomerania, Brandenburg, and East Prussia were settled by Germans from the 11th through the 13th centuries, and by 1880 Lutherans comprised 94% of the population of Brandenburg, 97% of Pomerania, and 86% of East Prussia.

At the partitions of Poland in 1772–95, Prussia gained the provinces of Silesia, Posen, and West Prussia, and German Lutherans began colonizing these previously Polish territories. By 1880 just under half of the population of Silesia and West Prussia and a third of the population of Posen was Lutheran. When parts or all of these Prussian territories became part of Poland at the end of World Wars I and II, most of the German Lutherans moved west into Germany.

Lutheran Germans also settled in other Polish territory taken by Prussia in 1795. This area of central Poland was for a time called South Prussia. It was incorporated into the Duchy of Warsaw from 1806–15 and became part of Congress Poland in 1815. Some of the Germans in this area remained in the Russian held parts of Poland, and others moved further east to Volhynia in Western Ukraine. In the late 1800s, when conditions worsened for these German colonists, many moved to German settlements near the Black Sea, to Germany, or to the United States.



For more information on Germans who lived in Prussia, see the *German Research Outline* (34061). Histories of the German Lutheran communities that remained in parts of the former Congress Poland and Prussian territories that became part of the post–World War II era are given in:

Kneifel, Eduard. *Die evangelisch-augsburgischen Gemeinden in Poland 1555–1939* (The Evangelical-Augsburg Parishes in Poland 1555–1939). München: Eduard Kneifel, 1972. (FHL book 943.8 K2ka; fiche 6000812.)

For more information about the history of the Lutherans, Calvinists, Mennonites, and other minorities, see:

Klassen Peter J. *A Homeland for Strangers: an Introduction to Mennonites in Poland and Prussia*. Fresno, CA: Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies, 1989. (943.8 F2k.)

Kneifel, Eduard. *Geschichte der Evangelisch-Augsburgischen Kirche in Polen* (History of the Evangelical-Augsburg Church in Poland). Niedermarschacht über Winsen/Luhe: Eduard Kneifel, 1964. (FHL book 943.8 K2k.)

Kupsch, Eduard. *Geschichte der Baptisten in Polen 1852–1932* (History of the Baptists in Poland 1852–1932). Zduńska-Wola: Eduard Kupsch, 1932. (FHL book 943.8 K2ke; film 1183574, item 8.)

Schrag, Martin H. *The European History of the Swiss Mennonites from Volhynia*. North Newton, Kansas: Mennonite Press, 1974. (FHL book 940 F2s; film 1045361, item 5.)

Tazbir, Janusz. *A State Without Stakes: Polish Religious Toleration in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*. (The Library of Polish studies.) Chicago: Kościusko Foundation, 1973. (943.8 H2Lp v. 3.)

*Wandering Volhynians: A Magazine for the Descendants of Germans from Volhynia and Poland*. Vancouver, B.C.: Ewald Wuschke, 1989–. (FHL book 947.718 D25w.)

## CHURCH RECORDS

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Church records (*Księgi metrykalne*) are excellent sources for accurate information on names; dates; and places of births, marriages, and deaths. Virtually all Christian people who lived in Poland were recorded in a church record.

Records of births, marriages, and deaths are called vital records because events in a person's life are recorded in them. Church records, called parish records or church books, are vital records made by church officials, pastors, or priests. They include records of births and christenings, marriages, and deaths and burials. In addition, church records may include account books, confirmations, and lists of members.

Church records are crucial for research in Poland. They are often the only source of family information. Civil authorities did not begin registering vital statistics until after 1874 in the former German areas and not until after 1918 in the rest of Poland. For these later records, see “Civil Registration” in this outline.

### General Historical Background

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In general, church records in Poland have been kept since the mid-1600s, although a few parishes have records dating from the 1590s. The efficient recording of baptisms, marriages, and deaths developed slowly. Record-keeping requirements were limited at first to baptisms, marriages, and confession registers. The amount of information increased over time. For example, early records often failed to provide the mother's full name.

Catholics were the first to maintain church vital records, but Protestants followed soon after. Most parishes have records dating from at least the early 1700s. Sometimes Catholic parishes also kept records of people of other faiths. For more information about the churches in Poland, see “Church History” in this outline.

The following chart shows important dates concerning church record-keeping in Poland:

1563	The Roman Catholic council of Trent required Catholic parishes throughout Europe to record baptisms and marriages. Few Polish parishes complied until the 1590s.
1614	A revised church proclamation repeated the order to keep church books and added a requirement to maintain death registers. Many more parishes complied.
1772	First partition of Poland. Polish territory was divided between Austria, Prussia, and Russia, creating differences in record-keeping styles. More partitions in 1793 and 1795.
1781	The Austrian Empire recognized the religious rights of non-Catholics with the Edict of Toleration.
1784	The Austrian Empire began requiring civil transcripts of church records under Catholic supervision.
1794	Prussia introduced civil transcripts of church records.
1807	Duchy of Warsaw established under jurisdiction of Napoleon's French Empire. Expanded to the Grand Duchy of Warsaw in 1809. 1808 Napoleon's civil code introduced. Civil registration of births, marriages, and deaths were to be kept in the Duchy of Warsaw written in Polish language. Catholic clergy were generally responsible for making transcripts of their church records for the state, including records of the Protestants and Jews.
1815	The Congress of Vienna settled the distribution of territory after the defeat of Napoleon. The borders between Russia, Prussia, and Austria were realigned. Most of the Duchy of Warsaw was awarded to Russia and designated Congress Poland or the Kingdom of Poland. Napoleonic-style civil transcripts of church records continued there.

1827	Revision of the civil transcript law of Congress Poland let Protestants and Jews keep their own vital records.
1830s	Protestants and Jews in Austria, including those of the Polish area of Galicia, were allowed to keep their own civil transcripts of vital records. The practice was standardized by 1840. 1868 Russian law required civil transcripts throughout Congress Poland be kept in Russian language.
1918	The Republic of Poland was created, reuniting Polish territory. Laws regarding keeping vital records were gradually standardized throughout the republic.

### **Civil Transcripts**

Some Polish church records were destroyed in the wars of the 1600s. Others were destroyed as parish houses burned. In 1704, because of concerns about such destruction, some parishes began making copies of their church books.

Civil transcripts were made of most church records in Poland after the 1790s. These records were a form of civil registration and included non-Catholics entries. You can use these duplicates where available to supplement parish registers that are missing or illegible.

### **Information Recorded in Church Registers**

The information recorded in church books varies over time. The later records generally give more complete information than the earlier ones.

The most important church records for genealogical research are christening, marriage, and burial registers. Some church books include confirmation records.

Catholic records were generally kept in Latin, Protestant records in German, Orthodox records in Russian. Greek Catholic (Uniate) records were kept in Latin, Ukrainian, or sometimes Polish. Local dialects may have affected the spelling of some



names and other words in the church records. Minority groups such as Mennonites, Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists, Orthodox Schismatics, Independents, and others often did not keep church registers unless required by law. Their birth, marriage, and death records would be with those of recognized churches, such as the Catholic or Lutheran Church, until they had to prepare their own transcripts of vital records.

### **Records of Birth and Baptism (*akta urodzeń i chrztów*)**

Children were generally christened within a few days of birth. Christening registers usually give the infant's and parents' names, legitimacy, names of witnesses or godparents, and the christening date. You may also find the child's birth date, father's occupation, and the family's place of residence. Death information has sometimes been added as a note.

Earlier registers typically give less information, sometimes only the child's and father's names and the date of the christening. Until the 1790s the pastors of many communities failed to give the name of the mother in the birth records or may have written only her given name. Occasionally the child's name is omitted, in which case the child was probably named after the godparent. Some Orthodox records do not even give the names of the parents. At first only the christening date was recorded, but in later years the birth date was given as well.

### **Marriage Intentions (*zapowiedzi*)**

Marriage intentions (banns) were announced a few weeks before a couple planned to marry. The couple were required to announce their intentions two or three times so other community members could raise any objections to the marriage. This was a requirement in Poland probably since the time marriage records were first kept. Marriage registers sometimes give the two or three dates on which the marriage intentions were announced in addition to the marriage date.

### **Marriage Records (*akta małżeństw*)**

Marriage registers give the date of the marriage and the names of the bride and groom. They also

indicate whether they were single or widowed and give the names of witnesses. They often include other information about the bride and groom such as their ages, residences, occupations, names of parents, and sometimes birthplaces. In cases of second and later marriages, they may include the names of previous partners and their death dates.

Early marriage records give little information about the couples' parents. In most cases before the beginning of the 19th century, marriage registers recorded only the names of the bride's parents. Some later marriage registers give the birthplaces of the groom and bride. Couples were often married in the home parish of the bride.

### **Records of Deaths and Burials (*akta zgonów i pogrzebów*)**

Burials were recorded in the church record of the parish where the person was buried. The burial usually took place within a few days of the death.

Burial registers give the name of the deceased person and the date and place of death or burial. Often the age, place of residence, cause of death, and names of survivors are given. Occasionally the date and place of birth and the parents' names are included. Early death registers usually do not indicate the date and place of birth. The birth date and place of the deceased person and information about parents in a burial record may not be accurate.

Burial records may exist for individuals who were born before birth and marriage records were kept. Burial records often start later than christening and marriage records of the same parish.

### **Locating Church Records**

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Original Catholic records are usually found in individual parish or diocesan archives. Protestant records are often in state archives; some are in the possession of Evangelical Church archives or officials. Civil transcripts are generally kept in the local civil registration offices (*Urząd Stanu Cwilnego*) for 100 years; then they are transferred to state archives.

To use church records, you must know the town and religion of your ancestor. You must also determine

the parish that your ancestor's town belonged to so that you will know which parish registers to search.

Your ancestor may have lived in village that was part of a parish located in a nearby larger town. Over time, some villages may have belonged to more than one parish as jurisdictions changed. Some gazetteers indicate parish jurisdictions. For help identifying parish boundaries, see "Gazetteers" and "Maps" in this outline and the following section on church record inventories.

The town where the church building was located is considered the parish headquarters. Although the church building was often named for a saint, the *Family History Library Catalog* refers to a parish by the name of the town where the parish church was located. In large cities where there may be many parishes for each religion, the catalog uses the parish name (such as St. John) to distinguish records of different parishes.

### Church Record Inventories

An inventory lists available church records, their location, and what years they cover. Sometimes they include information on which parishes served which towns at different periods of time. For example, the village of Kuzie may have belonged to the parish in Nowogród before 1743 and to the parish in Mały Płock after that date. See also "Church Directories" in this outline.

Church record inventories are available for some areas in Poland, and the Family History Library has copies of several of these for different counties and provinces. For areas of Poland that were formerly part of Prussia, the library has created the following inventories showing which records are included and not included in the library's collection:

*Pomerania* (FHL book 943.81 D27b.)

*Posen* (FHL book 943.84 D27b.)

*Silesia* (FHL book 943.85 D27b.)

*West Prussia* (FHL book 943.82 D27b.)

Many other inventories and lists of archive holdings for Poland are available at the Family History Library. Inventories of church records are listed in the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

## POLAND - CHURCH RECORDS - INVENTORIES, REGISTERS, CATALOGS POLAND, (COUNTY) - CHURCH RECORDS - INVENTORIES, REGISTERS, CATALOGS

### Records at the Family History Library

The Family History Library has church records on microfilm from many parishes throughout Poland, some to 1875, some to the 1880s, and some as late as the 1960s. The library does not have copies of records that were destroyed, have not been microfilmed, or are restricted from public access by the archivist or by law.

The specific holdings are listed in the locality section of the *Family History Library Catalog*.

Look in the catalog under the name of the town where the parish was, not necessarily the town where your ancestor lived:

## POLAND, (COUNTY), (TOWN) - CHURCH RECORDS

New records are continually added to the library's collection from several sources. Do not give up if records are not available yet. Check the *Family History Library Catalog* every two or three years for the records you need.

### Records Not at the Family History Library

Although the Family History Library is a convenient way to access records, sometimes the records you need are not available. You can often obtain needed information in other ways.

Poland has no single repository of church records. The present location of records depends on nationality, religion, and local history. Church records are available at:

- *Local parishes.* Most Catholic church records are still maintained by the parish, which will generally answer correspondence in Polish. You can write directly to the parish with a nonspecific address (Catholic parish, Town name with postal code, Poland), but using the specific parish address is better. For specific addresses, consult a church directory (see "Church Directories" in this outline). If the records you need have been moved to a diocese or state archive, your request may be forwarded to that archive.

- *Diocese archives.* Some parish registers are collected in diocesan archives. Generally the very old records (before 1800) are in diocesan archives. Some dioceses have parishes archive their records after 100 years. Protestants also maintain church archives, although their records are likely to be in a state archive. Church archives are often unable to handle genealogical requests, but they can tell you if specific records are available.
- *State archives.* Many parish records and transcripts are in state archives. Most of these records have been microfilmed and are available at the Family History Library. For more recent records and for those not yet microfilmed, write to the Directorate of the State Archives and request searches of the records. See “Archives and Libraries” in this outline for that address.
- *Civil registration offices.* Transcripts (copies) and sometimes originals of church records or Jewish records may be deposited in local civil registration offices. These are generally sent to state archives after 100 years. See “Civil Registration” in this outline.

The Family History Library has microfilmed records at state archives and in the diocesan archives of several dioceses. The library is continuing to acquire film copies of additional records. This is a major ongoing project.

Baptism, marriage, and burial records may be found by contacting or visiting local parishes or archives in Poland. Write your request in Polish whenever possible. Information about how to write to local parishes in Poland is given in *Polish Letter-Writing Guide* (36339). In your letter include the following:

- Full name and the sex of the person sought.
  - Names of the parents, if known.
  - Approximate date and place of the event.
  - Your relationship to the person.
  - Reason for the request (family history, medical, and so on).
  - Request for a photocopy of the complete original record.
  - International Reply Coupons, available from your local post office.
- Money for the search fee (usually about U.S. \$10.00 or equivalent in Polish currency).

If your request is unsuccessful, write for duplicate records that may have been filed in other archives or in civil registration offices.

### **Search Strategies**

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Effective use of church records includes the following strategies:

1. Search for the relative or ancestor you have selected. When you find the ancestor's birth record, search for the birth records of brothers and sisters.
2. Search for the marriage of the ancestor's parents. The marriage record will often give clues for locating their birth records.
3. Estimate the ages of the parents and search for their birth records, repeating the process for both the father and mother.
4. If earlier generations are not in the parish records, search the records of neighboring parishes.
5. Search the death registers for all family members.

## **CIVIL REGISTRATION**

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Civil registration is the vital records made by the government. Records of births, marriages, and deaths are commonly referred to as vital records because they refer to events in a person's life. Civil registration records (*zapisy cywilne*) are an excellent source for information on names, dates, and places of births, marriages, and deaths.

### **General Historical Background**

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Civil registration started when the clergy were required to make civil copies of birth, marriage, and death records. These are known as civil transcripts of church records (see “Church Records” in this outline). Because the church was involved in early civil registration, it is difficult to clearly distinguish between civil registration and church records.

Starting in the 19th century, churches quit making civil transcripts, and the people were required to report all births, marriages, and deaths to a civil registrar (*Standesamt*). Civil authorities in the German territories of Poland began registering births, marriages, and deaths in 1874. After this date all individuals who lived in Prussian German territories were to be listed in civil records. For birth, death, and marriage records in these areas before 1874, see “Church Records” in this outline.

In the former Russian and Austrian territories, conventional civil registration did not begin until after the establishment of the Republic of Poland in 1918.

### **Information Recorded in Civil Registers**

Information recorded in Prussian civil registration records was quite standardized. German forms were used, which required specific details. Translations of terms in the headings, listed in parentheses, are given in German and Polish.

The following descriptions pertain mostly to Prussian records. Civil registration in Poland after 1918 followed the civil transcript format of the former controlling government and was gradually standardized to a format similar to the Napoleonic records of the Congress Poland.

### **Birth Records (*Geburten, akta urodzeń*)**

Birth records usually give the child’s name, sex, date and place of birth, and parents’ names. They sometimes give additional details, such as the age of the parents, occupation of the father, and marital status of mother. Births were generally registered within a day of the child’s birth by the father, a neighbor of the family, or the midwife. Corrections to a birth record may have been added as a marginal note, sometimes years later.

### **Marriage Records (*Heiraten, akta małżeństw*)**

Marriages were often recorded in the parish where the bride lived. After 1874 Prussian law required a civil marriage ceremony in addition to a church ceremony. There may be records for both. Civil marriage records may include more information than

the church records. When church and civil records are available, search both.

Marriage registers give the date of the marriage, the names of the bride and groom, and the names of witnesses. They often include the bride’s and groom’s ages, birthplaces, residences, occupations, and parents’ names. In cases of second and later marriages, the records may include names of previous partners and their death dates. Often a note is made whether a parent or other party gave permission for the marriage.

Supporting documents were often filed by the bride or groom in support of their request to be married. Records proving their birth may have been required at the time, although these papers were probably not kept in the marriage register. Information obtained from supporting documents was often written into the actual marriage record. These documents are usually not microfilmed but might be obtained from a civil registration office.

### **Divorce Records (*Ehescheidungen, akta rozwodowe*)**

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Divorces before the mid-20th century were uncommon. The Catholic Church did not allow divorces, and divorces were discouraged in protestant religions, although some marriages may have been annulled. Civil officials began keeping divorce records with the beginning of civil registration. Records of divorces may contain information on family members, marital history, property, residences, and dates of other important events such as the children’s births. Often a record of divorce was inserted later as a marginal note in the marriage register.

The Family History Library has almost no divorce records in its Polish collection. You may be able to obtain information from divorce records by contacting the courthouse of the town where the divorce took place or the archives serving the area.

### **Death Records (*Tote, akta zgonów*)**

Death records are especially helpful because they may provide important information on a person’s birth, spouse, and parents. Civil death records may exist for individuals for whom there are no birth or



marriage records. Deaths were usually registered within a few days of the death in the town or city where the person died.

Early death records generally give the name, date, and place of death. After 1874 they usually included the age or date of birth and sometimes the birthplace, residence, occupation, cause of death, burial information, informant's name (often a relative), and the name of a spouse or parents. Information about parents and birthplace and date of the deceased and other information in a death record may be inaccurate since the informant may not have had complete information.

### **Locating Civil Registration Records**

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Civil registration records are kept at the local civil registration office (*Urząd stanu Cywilnego*) in each town or city. You must therefore determine the town where your ancestor lived before you can find the records.

Your ancestor may have lived in a village that was part of the civil district of a nearby larger town. In large cities there may be many civil districts. You may need to use gazetteers and other geographic references to identify the place your ancestor lived and the civil registration office that served it (see "Gazetteers" in this outline). In addition to the town, you need to know at least an approximate year in which the birth, marriage, divorce, or death occurred.

### **Indexes to Civil Registration Records**

Births, marriages, and deaths were written in the civil registration records as they occurred and thus are arranged chronologically. Where available, indexes can help you find your ancestor more easily. Although registration took place in local towns, copies of the records may have been sent to archives. Some records include a yearly index at the end.

### **Records at the Family History Library**

The Family History Library has microfilmed the civil registration records of many towns in the former Prussian areas of Poland. They are rarely available more recently than about 1890 because the

microfilming of records less than 110 years old is restricted. The specific holdings of the Family History Library are listed in the *Family History Library Catalog*. To find civil registration records in the Family History Library, search in the locality section under:

POLAND - CIVIL REGISTRATION  
POLAND, (COUNTY) - CIVIL  
REGISTRATION  
POLAND, (COUNTY), (CITY) - CIVIL  
REGISTRATION

The library's collection continues to grow. Do not give up if records are not available yet. The *Family History Library Catalog* is updated annually. Check it again every year for the records you need.

### **Locating Records Not at the Family History Library**

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Birth, marriage, divorce, and death records may be found by contacting local civil registration offices or archives in Poland. To protect the rights of privacy of living persons, most modern records have restrictions on their use and access.

The present location of records depends on the age of the record book. Records older than 100 years are generally in local civil registration offices, and older ones are in state archives. If you write to the Directorate of the Polish State archives, they will forward your request to the appropriate archive or civil registration office. When writing to the Polish state archives, do not send money. They will bill you for services.

### **Search Strategies**

The strategies for using civil registration records are essentially the same as for church records. Since civil registration began quite late in Poland, research in civil records will usually lead back to church registers within one or two generations.

## **DIRECTORIES**

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Directories are alphabetical lists of names and addresses. These often list all adult residents or tradesmen of a city or area. Telephone books are a type of directory.

The most helpful directories for genealogical research are city directories of local residents and businesses. These are usually published annually and may include an individual's name, address, occupation, and spouse's name. An individual's address can be helpful when searching in a large city with several parishes. Directories sometimes have maps and may have addresses of churches, cemeteries, and civil registration offices.

A good source for finding which surnames are prominent in which areas of Poland is a database made from directories throughout Poland in 1990:

Rymut, Kazimierz. *Słownik nazwisk współcześnie w Polsce używanych* (Dictionary of Names used in Contemporary Poland). 10 vols. Kraków: Polska Akademia Nauk-Instytut Języka Polskiego, 1992–1994. (FHL book 943.8D4rk.)

Telephone numbers and addresses for businesses in Poland can be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.teldir.com/eng/euro/pl>

The Family History Library has some directories for Poland. These are listed in the locality section of the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

POLAND, (COUNTY) - DIRECTORIES  
POLAND, (COUNTY), (CITY) -  
DIRECTORIES

Directories of tradesmen or businesses are listed in the locality section of the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

POLAND, (COUNTY) - OCCUPATIONS

There are also special directories that can help you find church dioceses and parishes. See “Church Directories” in this outline.

## **EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION**

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Emigration and immigration sources list the names of people leaving (emigration) or coming into (immigration) Poland. These lists include passenger

lists, permissions to emigrate, and records of passports issued. The information in these records may include the name, age, occupation, destination, and place of origin or birthplace of the emigrant. These sources can help you determine where in Poland your ancestor came from and also in constructing family groups. Unfortunately, there are few emigration records from Poland, but there are some useful records of Polish immigrants into America.

This section discusses:

- Emigration from Poland, including the historical background of Polish emigration
- Finding an emigrant's town of origin
- Passenger lists
- Other records of departure
- Records of Polish emigrants in their destination countries

### **Emigration from Poland**

People emigrated from Poland to places such as the United States, Canada, Australia, and South America beginning in the 1820s. Most early emigrants came from areas under Prussian (German) rule to the United States and, to a lesser degree, France. These included both ethnic Poles and ethnic Germans. The earliest emigrants from Russian-governed Poland were from the districts of Suwalki and Łomża. A great many of these people were Jewish.

Most of the early emigrants to the United States settled in Texas; Hamtramck, Michigan; and the Chicago area. Emigration was minimal until 1854, when Poles from Silesia began settling in Texas. A great wave of Polish emigration started in the 1870s. Most later emigrants left from Austrian-governed southern Poland (Galicia) and Russian Poland, destined largely for Illinois, Wisconsin, New York, Michigan, and other areas of the United States. From 1900–15, many Poles settled in Chicago, New York City, Connecticut, New York State, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. From 1870–1914, 3.6 million Poles left from the three empires that controlled Poland. The Russian Poles constituted 53%, those from Galicia 43%, and the Prussian Poles 4% of the total Polish immigration from 1895–1911.



If you cannot find your ancestor, you may find emigration information on neighbors of your ancestor. People who lived near each other in Poland may have settled together in the country they emigrated to.

### **Finding an Emigrant's Town of Origin**

Once you have found your immigrant ancestor, you must determine the city or town the ancestor was from. Poland has no nationwide index to birth, marriage, or death records or other records needed for genealogical research.

Several sources may give your ancestor's place of origin. Family members or a library may have documents that name the city or town, such as:

- Birth, marriage, and death certificates
- Obituaries
- Journals
- Photographs
- Letters
- Family Bibles
- Church certificates or records
- Naturalization applications and petitions
- Passenger lists
- Passports
- Family heirlooms

Additional information about finding the origins of immigrant ancestors is given in *Tracing Immigrant Origins* (34111).

### **Passenger Lists**

The Polish ports of Gdańsk (Danzig) and Szczecin (Stettin) were primarily freight ports. Not many passengers sailed from these ports. Most emigrants went by train to Germany and then embarked from a German port. The major ports of departure for emigrants from Poland were Hamburg and Bremen, but because Hamburg had more agents and advertising in Eastern Europe, it served more Polish emigrants than Bremen did. The passenger lists of Bremen have not been preserved, but those of Hamburg from 1850 to 1934 are preserved and accessible for research. Information in these lists varies but usually includes names, ages, occupations, and destinations. In addition,

relationships and last residence or birthplace may be given.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of the original records from the port of Hamburg. The film numbers of these records are listed in the locality section of the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

GERMANY, HAMBURG, HAMBURG -  
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

The Family History Library has produced a guide for using these records: *The Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850–1934* (34047).

### **Other Records of Departure**

Emigrating from Poland potentially gave rise to several types of records, including passport applications, police reports and registrations, newspaper announcements, and annotations in church records or civil registration. Such records, if preserved, are in municipal and district archives. The Family History Library has not microfilmed any such records for Poland, and they are not easily accessible to the public.

### **Records of Polish Emigrants in Their Destination Countries**

Sometimes the best sources for information about your immigrant ancestor are found in the country he or she emigrated to. You should search the records of the place where your ancestor settled, such as passenger arrival records and naturalization records. These sometimes provide the town of origin and other information. To learn about these records, use handbooks, manuals, and research outlines, if available, for that country.

Most Polish immigrants to the United States arrived in New York, Baltimore, Galveston, or New Orleans. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of arrival records for these and other U.S. ports. Most are indexed. See the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for more information about U.S. emigration and immigration records. Canada, Australia, and other nations kept similar records of arrivals. The research outlines for the country where your ancestor

went should provide information about that country's immigration records.

A bibliography of over 2,500 published lists of emigrants and immigrants is:

Filby, P. William. *Passenger and Immigrations Lists Bibliography, 1538–1900*. 2d ed. Detroit: Gale Research, 1988. (FHL book 973 W33p 1988.)

More than 1000 of these passenger and immigration lists are indexed in:

Filby, P. William, et al. *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index*. 9 vols. Detroit: Gale Research, Q1981–. (FHL book 973 W33p.) This does not index official U.S. arrival lists. Many of the names are from post-1820 published sources.

There are several immigration lists directed specifically toward persons who emigrated from Poland. These include:

*Surname Index*. Houston, TX: The Polish Genealogical Society of Texas, 1988–. (FHL book 976.4144 F25p.)

Geraldine Moser. *Hamburg passengers from the Kingdom of Poland and the Russian Empire*. Washington, D.C.: Landmen Press, 1996. (FHL book 943.8 W2m.)

## Immigration into Poland

Significant numbers of immigrants moved to Poland from 1770–1850. Most of these came from Germany, but others came from the Netherlands, France, and even Scotland. This wave of immigration was caused by offers to settle new lands in Russia. Many of these immigrants had suffered economic losses or religious persecution in their homelands.

## ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND DICTIONARIES

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Encyclopedias can have information on all branches of knowledge or treat a specific topic

comprehensively, usually in articles arranged alphabetically. They often contain information of interest for genealogical research, including articles about towns and places, prominent people, minorities, and religions. They can give information about topics such as record-keeping practices, laws, customs, commerce, costumes, occupations, and archaic terminology.

The library has general knowledge encyclopedias in Polish and encyclopedias that address specific topics, such as *Encyclopedia of Warsaw*, which are often in English. Both types of encyclopedias are listed in the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

### POLAND - ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND DICTIONARIES

The following encyclopedias and dictionaries may be particularly helpful in your research:

*Polish Encyclopedia*. 3 vol., N.Y. Times: Arno Press, 1972. (FHL book 943.8 H6p.) A collection of monographs on various social sciences related to Poland, including language, literature, history, demography, geography, economics, etc. Not alphabetically arranged.

*Encyklopedia Warszawy* (Encyclopedia of Warsaw). Warszawa: Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 1975. (FHL book 943.84/W1 A5.) Contains entries on prominent people of Warsaw, local economy, streets, buildings, churches, and so on.

Orgelbrand, Samuel. *Encyklopedia powszechna* (General encyclopedia). Warszawa: [s.n.], 1898–1912. (FHL films 0997501–18.) From the end of the 19th century. Excellent source of information about places, religions, old occupations, and old Polish terminology.

For information on language dictionaries, see “Language and Languages” in this outline.

## GAZETTEERS

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Gazetteers are dictionaries of place-names. They describe towns, villages, counties, provinces, and

population sizes; parishes; and rivers, mountains, and other geographical features. They usually include only places that existed at the time of publication. The place-names are generally listed in alphabetical order.

Gazetteers may also provide the following information about towns:

- Local religious denominations and parishes
- Postal facilities and other communication facilities (telephone, telegraph, and so on)
- Local commerce, agriculture, manufacturing works, canals, docks, and railroad stations
- Schools, colleges, and universities

You can use gazetteers to locate places where your family lived and determine the civil and church jurisdictions over those places. For example, Sarnów in Gliwice County is a small village that belongs to the Catholic parish of Toszek.

Because many places in Poland have the same or similar names, you will need to use a gazetteer to identify the specific town your ancestor lived in, the civil district it was in, and the jurisdictions where records about your ancestor were kept.

Gazetteers can also help you determine the county jurisdictions used in the *Family History Library Catalog*.

### **Finding Place-Names in the *Family History Library Catalog***

The *Family History Library Catalog* lists place-names under county (*województwo*) jurisdictions used in the 1960s and 70s. Names are also listed under the German-Prussian province (*Provinz*) as of 1871–1914 or the Austrian province (*Provinz*) as of 1850–1915. To find the province that a town is filed under in the *Family History Library Catalog*, use the “see” references on the catalog’s first locality microfiche of each state. If you have the catalog on compact disc, use the “Locality Browse” search. Each town is listed in the catalog with its district (*powiat* or *Kreis*) jurisdiction to distinguish it from other places of the same name.

Because of the many changes in place-names, the Family History Library uses one gazetteer as the standard guide for listing places in the *Family*

*History Library Catalog*. Regardless of the names a place may have had at various times, all Polish places are listed in the catalog by the name they are listed under in:

*Spis miejscowości Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej* (Gazetteer of the Polish People’s Republic). Warsaw: Wydawnictwa Komunikacji i Łączności, 1967. (FHL book 943.8E5s; film 0844922.) This gazetteer lists locality names as they existed from the 1950s to the 1980s. Locality names are listed alphabetically in column 1; column 3 indicates district; column 4, province; column 5, post office location; and column 7 the location of the current vital records office. For former Polish towns that are now part of Russia, see the 1934 *Listing of Localities of the Polish Republic* by Bystrzycki listed below.

### **Modern Place-Names**

For research purposes such as correspondence, learn which jurisdictions your ancestral town was under at various times. Current jurisdictions can help you find the ancestral town on modern maps. The following modern gazetteers are at most large libraries and archives:

*Wykaz urzędowych nazw miejscowości w Polsce* (List of official place-names in Poland). Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Akcydensowe, 1980. (FHL book 943.8 E5wu; fiche 6053522.) This gazetteer lists the jurisdictions as they were from the 1980s to 1998. Towns are listed alphabetically, giving the district and province they are located in and the post office location. No parishes jurisdictions are listed.

Bystrzycki, Tadeusz. *Skorowidz miejscowości Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej* (Listing of localities of the Polish Republic). 3 vols. Przemyśl: Wydawnictwo Książnicy Naukowej, 1934. (FHL book 943.8 E5sm; film 11343868.) This gazetteer, of the republic of Poland from 1918–1939, is the most accurate gazetteer for the territory. It is arranged alphabetically in the first column. Other columns include townships, districts, provinces, post offices, and railways.

The last column gives parish jurisdictions but not synagogues. It does not include towns in western Poland that were part of Prussia in 1934 (for these towns, see the 1967 gazetteer mentioned previously).

Similar national sources are listed in the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

## POLAND - POSTAL AND SHIPPING GUIDES

### Historical Place-Names

With changes in national boundaries and governments, many place names and jurisdictions in Poland have changed. The following gazetteers identify Polish localities as they existed under Austrian, German, and Russian administrations:

#### Austria

“Gemeindelexikon von Galizien” (Gazetteer of Galicia) *Gemeindelexikon der in Reichsräte vertretenen Königreiche und Länder* (Gazetteer of the crown lands and territories represented in the imperial council). Vol. 12. Vienna: K. K. Statistischen Zentralkommission, 1907. (FHL book 943.6 E5g; film 1187928.)

To use, find the village in the index, which gives the page number in the gazetteer. This will help locate the district given at the top of the page. In the appendix section, using the name of the district and the village, you can determine the parish town where the church records were kept for your village.

#### Germany

Uetrecht, E., *Meyers Orts und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs* (Meyer’s gazetteer and directory of the German Empire). Leipzig: Bibliographisches Institut, 1912–. (FHL book 943.E5mo; film 496640–41; fiche 6000001–29.) This gazetteer lists places alphabetically, gives their former German province, and states whether a place has its own parish or synagogue. It also indicates the location of the vital records office.

*Gemeindelexikon für das Königreich Preussen* (Gazetteer for the Kingdom of Prussia). 13 vols. Berlin: Verlag des Königlichen Statistischen Landesamts, 1907–09. (FHL book 943.E5kp; film 1186701, 0806633–35.) Volumes for each Prussian province are arranged by district with an index at the end. The gazetteer is in German Gothic print. Information is given in columns and includes population figures as well as civil and ecclesiastical jurisdictions.

#### Russia (and many places in Austria and Germany)

Sulimierski, Filip, ed. *Słownik geograficzny królestwa polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich* (Geographical dictionary of the Kingdom of Poland and other Slavic countries). 15 vols. Warsaw: Sulimierski i Walewski, 1880–1902. (FHL book 943.8 E5c; film 920957–72.) These locations are listed alphabetically with Polish text.

The following book gives name changes after World War I:

Kredel, Otto, and Franz Thierfelder, *Deutsch-fremdsprachiges Ortsnamenverzeichnis* (German-foreign gazetteer). 3 vols. Berlin: Deutsche Verlagsgesellschaft, 1931. (FHL book 940 E5kt; film 0950387.) The purpose of this gazetteer is to locate place-name changes after World War I.

These sources are listed in the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

## POLAND - GAZETTEERS

## GENEALOGY

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The term *genealogy* is used in this outline and in the *Family History Library Catalog* to describe a variety of records containing family information gathered by individuals, other researchers, societies, or archives. These records may include pedigree charts, compiled information on families, correspondence, ancestor lists, research exchange files, record abstracts, and collections of original or copied documents. These can be excellent sources of information that can save you valuable time. Because they are compiled from other sources of information, they must be carefully evaluated for accuracy.

Additional genealogical sources for Polish nobility are described in “Nobility” in this outline.

## Major Collections and Databases

The Family History Library has several sources that contain previous research or can lead you to other people who are interested in sharing family information. These sources include:

*International Genealogical Index* (IGI). The index has names and vital information for thousands of people (deceased) who lived in Poland. It lists birth, christening, or marriage dates as well as Latter-day Saint temple ordinance information. The index for Poland has names extracted from parish registers by volunteers (mostly from places formerly under Germany) and names submitted by other researchers.

IGI is available on microfiche, on compact disc as part of FamilySearch, and on the Internet. If you are using microfiche, you need to know which county to search. If you are using the compact disc edition, the computer will search the entire country for any name.

*Ancestral File*. Part of FamilySearch, this file contains family history information, linked in family groups and pedigrees, that has been contributed since 1979. You can print pedigree charts, family group records, and individual summary sheets for any person in Ancestral File.

*Family Group Records Collection*. More than 8 million family group record forms have been microfilmed in the Family Group Records Collection, including many Polish families. There are two major sections: the Archive Section and the Patrons Section. The film numbers for both sections are listed in the Author/Title section of the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

FAMILY GROUP RECORDS COLLECTION

## Family Histories

A few Polish families have produced histories or newsletters that may include genealogical information, biographies, photographs, and other information. These usually include several generations of the family.

The Family History Library has only a limited number of published Polish family histories and newsletters. Copies are listed in the surname section of the catalog, but not every name found in a family history will be listed. Only the major surnames discussed in the family history are included in the catalog.

Unpublished family histories, usually of Polish nobility and their descendants, are sometimes in the possession of private individuals in Poland. These individuals may have collected a variety of unpublished records pertaining to their own families. Such materials are generally inaccessible for research unless you can establish contact with the appropriate individuals.

## Genealogical Collections

The Family History Library has some collections of genealogical material for Polish families. These may include published and unpublished collections of family histories and lineages. Some of the major genealogical collections are:

Borchert, Reinhard, *Die Kartei Quassowski* (The Quassowski index). Hamburg: Verein für Familienforschung in Ost- und Westpreußen e.v., 1992. (FHL book 943.8 D22k.) This work is arranged alphabetically by the main surname of the family. Incidental names are indexed in a separate index.

*Schlesische Ahnenlisten* (Silesia ancestor lists). Breslau: Der Schlesische Familienforscher, 1938–. (FHL book 943.82 B2sf.) This lists ancestors from the former Prussian territory of Silesia, now in Poland.

Genealogical collections are listed in the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

POLAND - GENEALOGY  
POLAND, (COUNTY) - GENEALOGY  
POLAND, (COUNTY), (TOWN) -  
GENEALOGY

If you find your surname in any of the sources described in this section, determine whether the entry actually pertains to your family. People with the same surname are not necessarily related. You might have to do some original research before you can connect your ancestry to families listed in these sources.



The catalog also lists books about how to do genealogical research in Poland. Examples are:

Gnacinski, Jan and Len, *Polish and Proud, Tracing Your Polish Ancestry*. Revised Ed. Indianapolis, IN: Ye Olde Genealogie Shoppe, 1995. (FHL book 943.8 D27g.)

Chorzempa, Rosemary. *Korzenie polskie: Polish Roots*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1993. (FHL book 943.8 D27gr.)

Genealogical instructional books are listed in the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

POLAND - GENEALOGY - HANDBOOKS, MANUALS, ETC.

POLAND, (COUNTY) - GENEALOGY - HANDBOOKS, MANUALS, ETC.

## HERALDRY

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In Poland the noble class was entitled to bear armorial signs. Signs were acquired differently in Poland than in other areas of Europe. Polish arms belong to groups or clans, not related by blood, who share a common armorial shield (*herb*). Originally Polish kings rewarded people who distinguished themselves in battle, performed a heroic deed or notable achievement, or held a prominent position in government by granting them a noble title and the right to use an armorial shield (often called a coat of arms). In the era of elected kings, people could be admitted to a shield either by election by nobles assembled in the parliament (*sejm*) or by adoption to a noble family. Only with rare exceptions could an elected Polish king grant nobility and a coat of arms to anyone other than a foreigner.

Each Polish armorial shield has its own individual name, which is different from the family names associated with it. Many different families, with different surnames, may have shared the same armorial shield.

A higher proportion of Poles possessed noble status than was the case in Western Europe. Once obtained, an armorial shield was handed down through the generations. Arms and nobility status

were inherited by all family members, not just the first son. For this reason, the noble class in Poland encompassed even the least country squire and the poorest knight.

Documentation for armorial shields is published in works called armorials (*herbarz*). An armorial is a collection of descriptions of coats of arms and the families that bear them. Poland has produced numerous armorials prepared by various authors dealing with the genealogy and armorial shields of Polish knights and nobility. The armorials describe each family's entitlement to the arms. They may also note early bearers of that coat of arms, sometimes with relationships, birth dates, and other genealogical information.

Each armorial differs from others depending on the research of the author. No one armorial includes all Polish nobility though significant families are included in all of them. Some minor noble families are not included in any armorial. Polish armorials generally contain genealogical information as well as illustrations of the heraldic arms. They are a good place to start a study of genealogy and heraldry for noble families since they list family members and descendants from a common arms-bearing ancestor in the distant past. The following is an easily accessible popular Polish armorial:

*Herbarz Polski Kaspra Niesieckiego*. (Kaspar Niesiecki's Polish Armorial). 10 vols. Lipsko: Breitkopf i Härtel, 1839–1846. (FHL book 943.8 D5n; film 0865225-0865233.)

The Family History Library has collected many armorials. These are listed in the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

### POLAND - HERALDRY

Sources with information about noble ancestors may also be listed in the catalog under:

### POLAND - NOBILITY

In addition, such families are often subjects of published genealogical books or articles. See the "Genealogy" and "Nobility" in this outline.



## HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY

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The name of the place your ancestor came from, the province, or the country may have changed several times. This section describes the changes that have taken place in Poland. This information will help you find records in the *Family History Library Catalog* for the place your ancestors lived. This section will describe the jurisdictions used in the catalog.

Poland was formerly part of Prussia, Austria, and Russia until 1918, when it became an independent nation. Record-keeping practices and political jurisdictions were determined by the country controlling the specific area of Poland. Over time administrative districts have been reorganized, their names and boundaries changed, and local place-names changed. You may need to determine previous boundaries and jurisdictions to locate your ancestors' records. Gazetteers and histories are helpful sources of information about these changes. The Polish partitions and the two world wars contributed greatly to the administrative changes that took place in Poland. After World War II, and Germany's occupation of Poland, ended in 1945, Poland's borders shifted considerably. The Soviet Union took territory in the east and Poland gained territory from Germany in the west.

In 1975 Poland changed its administrative system, increasing the number of provinces from 22 to 49. In 1999 the provinces were again rearranged from 49 to 16. Most records refer to the older provinces and place-names. After a strike at the Gdansk shipyard in the 1980s, a solidarity movement began and for the first time a labor organization was recognized. The events that took place following the strike eventually led to the fall of the Communist government in Poland.

Sources about boundary changes are found in the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

POLAND - HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY  
POLAND - HISTORY  
POLAND, (COUNTY) - HISTORICAL  
GEOGRAPHY  
POLAND, (COUNTY) - HISTORY

The historical atlases described in "Maps" in this outline contain maps depicting boundary changes, migration and settlement patterns, military actions, and ethnic and religious distribution.

## HISTORY

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Effective family research requires a knowledge of major historical events that may have affected your family and the records about them. Learning about wars, governments, laws, migrations, and religious trends may help you understand political boundaries, family movements, and settlement patterns. These events may have led to the creation of records such as land and military documents that mention your family. Your ancestors will become more interesting to you if you also use histories to learn about the events they may have participated in. For example, by using a history you might learn about the events that occurred in the year your great-grandparents were married.

The following are some key dates and events in the history of Poland:

500	Slavic tribes settled in the area that is now Poland.
966-1795	The Polish Kingdom existed. The Polish state emerged in the 10th century when several tribes united. Christianity was accepted in 966 A.D., and Poland became a kingdom.
1569	Poland reached its greatest territorial expansion. At that time it included Lithuania, Borussia (Prussia), Volhynia, Podolia, and the Ukraine.
1582	The Kingdom of Poland adopted the Gregorian calendar.
1772	<i>First Partition.</i> Russia, Austria, and Prussia each seized one-third of Polish territory (see maps)
1793	<i>Second Partition.</i> Russia obtained one-half of the remaining territory of Poland, and Prussia took Posen

1772	<i>First Partition.</i> Russia, Austria, and Prussia each seized one-third of Polish territory (see maps).
1793	<i>Second Partition.</i> Russia obtained one-half of the remaining territory of Poland, and Prussia took Posen.
1795	<i>Third Partition.</i> Polish resistance was overwhelmed, and the remaining Polish territory was divided among Russia, Austria, and Prussia. The Kingdom of Poland ceased to exist.
1806–1813	<i>Napoleonic Era.</i> Napoleon created the Duchy of Warsaw (1806) and the Grand Duchy of Warsaw (1809) from territories previously seized from Prussia and Austria.
1813	Napoleon's armies were defeated at Waterloo, bringing an end to the French Empire.
1815	The Congress of Vienna reassigned Polish territory to Russia, Austria, and Prussia. Kraków was established as a free city republic. The Kingdom of Poland was established within the Russian Empire with the czar as king. This kingdom was often referred to as "Congress Poland" because of its origin at the Congress of Vienna.
1846	Austria took over the Republic of Kraków, and it was incorporated into the province of Galicia.
1864	January uprising resulted from Russia's efforts to Russify the Kingdom of Poland.
1918–1939	<i>The Republic of Poland.</i> At the end of World War I Poland reappeared as an independent state after 126 years of foreign rule. The Treaty of Versailles in 1919 established Danzig/Gdansk as a free city, nominally independent of both Germany and Poland.

1939–1945	<i>German Occupation.</i> The invasion by the Nazis in 1939 marked the onset of World War II. After the war Poland ceded her eastern territories to the Soviet Union and her western borders were moved west to the Oder and Neisse Rivers, thus establishing her present borders. A provisional government was set up under Soviet auspices in 1945.
1947	The Communist party gained full control of the Polish government in state-controlled elections.
1952	Poland became a people's republic on the Soviet model.
1989	The fall of the Communist regime. Lech Wałęsa was elected president in 1989 in Poland's first free election.

The Family History Library has several published national, provincial, and local histories for Poland. You can find histories in the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

EUROPE - HISTORY  
POLAND - HISTORY  
POLAND, (COUNTY) - HISTORY  
POLAND, (COUNTY), (CITY) - HISTORY

The following historical sources are only a few of the many that are available. Books with film numbers can be ordered through local family history centers. Some may be found in major research libraries.

Ćwik, Władysław. *Miasta królewskie Lubelszczyzny w drugiej połowie XVIII wieku* (Life in the royal cities of the Lublin region of Poland in the second half of the 18th century). Lublin: Wydawnictwo Lubelskie, 1968. (FHL book 943.84 H2c; film 1183619.)

Gieysztor, Aleksander. *History of Poland*. Warszawa: Polish Scientific Publishers, 1979. (FHL book 943.8 H2gk, FHL film 1181701.)

Leslie, R. F. *The History of Poland since 1863*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1980. (FHL book 943.8 H2hp.) Includes a bibliography.

Topolski, Jerzy. *An Outline History of Poland*. Warszawa: Interpress Publishers, 1986. (FHL book 943.8 H2tj.)

Wandycz, Piotr S. *The Lands of Partitioned Poland, 1795–1918*. Vol. 7 in series: *A History of East Central Europe*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1974. (FHL book 940 H2ho.) Includes maps.

## Local Histories

Some of the most valuable sources for family history research are local histories. They describe the settlement of the area and the founding of churches, schools, and businesses. You can also find lists of citizens, soldiers, and civil officials. Even if your ancestor is not listed, information on other relatives may be included that will provide clues. A local history may also give you ideas of other records to search.

In addition, local histories can provide information about your family's lifestyle and the community and environment your family lived in.

Although relatively few local histories have been published for towns or regions in Poland, a careful search for available histories for your ancestor's locality is worthwhile. You might want to write to the village mayor to see if these histories are available for your town when they are not available at the Family History Library. Sometimes local histories are available at major public and university libraries and archives.

## Calendar Changes

The Gregorian calendar is the calendar in common use in the world today. It is a correction of the Julian calendar that had been in use since 46 B.C. Leap years had been miscalculated in the Julian calendar, so by 1582 the calendar was 10 days behind the solar year. Most Catholic countries, including the Kingdom of Poland, began using the Gregorian calendar in 1582. In Protestant areas of western

Poland, the switch from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar took place in 1700.

In Congress Poland, where Russian administration affected record keeping, the Julian calendar was generally used. Often both the Gregorian and the Julian dates were used on documents, the Julian date being listed first, which may make the records confusing to novice researchers. When both dates are given, use the Gregorian date for your record keeping. The Julian calendar was no longer used after 1918. By then the two calendars were 12 days apart.

## JEWISH RECORDS

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Historians estimate that during the 19th century more than 85 per cent of the world's Jews lived in Europe. Most of these lived in Poland and Russia. Many books have been written about Jews in Poland. You can often find these in a public or university library.

The Family History Library has microfilmed many Jewish records in Poland and is continually adding to the collection. There are extensive records from the former Russian and German areas of Poland, but fewer for the Austrian areas of Poland. For those areas not yet microfilmed, you may write to the local civil registration office.

At first Jews were included in Catholic civil registers. The earliest civil registration of Polish Jews was in the former Austrian territory of Galicia in 1787, but it was not enforced until the mid-19th century. The Duchy of Warsaw, which later constituted the Russian territory of Poland, began civil registration in 1808. In areas of Prussian rule, Jews were required to prepare transcripts of vital records beginning in the early 1800s. Microfilmed civil records are usually available to 1875. You may obtain information regarding records not filmed and still in Poland by writing to the headquarters of the Polish State Archives (see "Archives" in this outline).

For further information about Jewish research see the Internet site: [www.JewishGen.org](http://www.JewishGen.org)

Also see the *Jewish Research Outline* (36383).

For information regarding locations of Polish Jewish records, see:

Weiner, Miriam, *Jewish Roots in Poland, Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories*. New York: Yivo Institute for Jewish Research, 1997. (FHL book 943.8 F2wm.)

## LAND AND PROPERTY

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Land records are primarily used to learn where an individual lived and when he or she lived there. They often reveal family information such as a spouse's name, heir, other relatives, or neighbors. You may learn where a person lived before, occupations, and other clues for further research.

In the former Austrian-controlled territories of Poland, land records named not only the property owners but also the landholders and land lease titles. These records indicate the obligations of the landholder to the estate owner. As peasants gained freedom from the estate owners (serfdom was officially abolished in 1848), land books listed the landholders and described transfers of title from parent to child and outright sales of land. In some instances the land records provide exact family relationships. These records, if accessible, could supplement the use of church registers. In other areas of Poland where land records are more associated with actual land ownership, land records are of lesser value because only a very small percentage of the population owned land.

The Family History Library has very few land records from Poland. Because of the availability of better genealogical sources, such as church records and civil registration, land records are seldom used in Polish research. In addition, land records in Poland are not easily accessible. The existing records are now found at various state archives. You might be able to use land records for your research if you can visit the Polish archives in person or hire a local research agent.

## LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES

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Most materials used in Polish research are written in Polish. You do not need to speak or read Polish to do research in Polish records, but you should know some key words and phrases to understand the records. Because the Roman Catholic Church was the predominant religion in Poland, many records

are in Latin. Other languages in Polish records include Polish, German, and Russian.

Polish grammar may affect the way names appear in genealogical records. For example, names of your ancestors will vary from record to record in Polish. For help in understanding name variations, see "Names, Personal" in this outline.

### Language Aids

The Family History Library has genealogical word lists for Polish (34098), German (34067), and Latin (34077). The following books and English-Polish dictionaries can also aid you in your research. You can find these and similar material at many research libraries:

Kierst, W. *English-Polish/Polish-English Dictionary*. New York: Saphograph Co., 1956. ( FHL book 491.85321 K847e.)

Pogonowski, Iwo Cyprian. *Practical Polish-English, English-Polish Dictionary*. New York: Hippocrene Books, 1985. (FHL book 491.85321P751p.)

Another valuable research tool for reading records of the former Russian territories of Poland is:

Frazin, Judith R. *A Translation Guide to 19<sup>th</sup>-century Polish-language Civil-registration Documents: (Birth, Marriage and Death Records)*. 2nd ed. Northbrook: The Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois, 1989. (FHL book 943.8 V27.)

To read the Russian language records of this same area after 1868 use:

Shea, Jonathan D. *Russian Language Documents from Russian Poland: a Translation Manual for Genealogists*. 2nd ed. Buffalo Grove, Ill.: Genun, 1989. (FHL book 943.8 D27.)

## MAPS

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Maps are an important source for locating places where your ancestors lived. They help you see the neighboring towns, transportation routes, and



geographic features of the area your ancestor came from. Historical maps are especially useful for understanding boundary changes.

Maps are published individually or as an atlas (a bound collection of maps). They may be included in gazetteers, guidebooks, local histories, and history texts.

Different types of maps will help you in different ways. Historical atlases describe the growth and development of countries. They show boundaries, migration routes, settlement patterns, military campaigns, and other historical information. Road atlases are useful because of their detail, and they include an alphabetical index. Other types of maps include parish maps, county atlases, topographical maps, and military maps. Maps can show townships in great detail (to ½" to the mile). City maps are extremely helpful when researching in large cities such as Warszawa.

### Using Maps

Maps must be used carefully for several reasons:

1. There are often several places with the same name. For example, there are nine towns called Dęba in present-day Poland.
2. The spelling and even names of some towns may have changed since your ancestors lived there. Some localities have different names in different languages. For example, the town now known as Toszek was Tost before 1918.
3. Place-names are often misspelled in American sources. Difficult names may have been shortened and important diacritic marks omitted. For example, Warszawa may be found as Warsaw on some maps.
4. Political boundaries are not clearly indicated on all maps.

### Finding the Specific Town on the Map

To do successful research in Poland, you must identify the town where your ancestor lived. Because many towns have the same name, you may need some additional information before you can

locate the correct town on a map. You will be more successful if you have some information about the town. You may search gazetteers, histories, family records, and other sources to learn about the following:

- The state or province the ancestor came from
- Name of the parish where your ancestor was baptized or married
- Towns where related ancestors lived
- The size of the town
- The occupation of your ancestor (this may indicate the size or industries of the town)
- Nearby localities, such as large cities
- Nearby features, such as rivers and mountains
- Industries of the area
- Dates when the town was renamed
- Dates the town existed
- Other names the town was known by

Use gazetteers to identify the district the town you want was in. This will distinguish it from other towns of the same name and help you locate it on a map. (See "Gazetteers" in this outline.)

### Finding Maps and Atlases

Collections of maps and atlases are available at numerous historical societies and at public and university libraries. The Family History Library has a good collection of Polish maps and atlases. These are listed in the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

#### POLAND - MAPS

Some maps at the Family History Library are:

*Karte des Deutschen Reiches* (Map of the German Empire). Scale 1:100,000. Berlin: Kartographische Abteilung der Königlichen Preußischen Landesaufnahme, 1914–1917. (FHL film 0068814.)

*Mapa Polski (taktyczna)* (Tactical maps of Poland). Warszawa: Wojskowy Instytut Geograficzny, 1926–38. (FHL fiche 6312622.) A set of 483 microfiche maps of Poland as it existed between World War I and World War II.

Modern road atlases for Poland are for sale at various genealogical booksellers and many on-line bookstores through the Internet. The following is an easy-to-use, well-produced road atlas that is typical of what is available.

*Euro-Reiseatlas Polen* (Euro-travel atlas Poland). Scale 1:300,000. Berlin: RV Reise und Verkehrsverlag, 1993. (FHL book 943.8 E7er.)

Two excellent national historical atlases are:

*Atlas geograficzny ilustrowany królestwa polskiego* (An illustrated geographical atlas of the Kingdom of Poland). Scale 1:420,000. Warszawa: J. M. Bazewicz, 1907. (FHL book 943.8 E3b; film 0873665 item 3; fiche 6000827.)

Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski. *Poland: A Historical Atlas*. New York, NY: Hippocrene Books, Inc., 1987. (FHL book 943.8 E7p.)

## MILITARY RECORDS

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Military records identify individuals who served in the military or who were eligible for service. Most young men were required to serve in or register for military service in Poland. Evidence that an ancestor actually served may be found in biographies or family, census, probate, civil registration, or church records.

Military records of Poland exist as early as the 1500s. After the partitions, each area of Poland had its own distinctive system of keeping military records pertaining to the Austrian, Russian, or Prussian government. The Family History Library has very little in the way of military records from the Russian and Prussian territories but does have records from the former Austrian areas.

Military records include muster rolls, conscription lists, and draft registers. For officers these records provide information about soldiers' military careers, such as promotions, places served, pensions, and conduct. In addition, these records usually include information about age, birthplace, residence, occupation, physical description, and family

members. For regular soldiers, however, the information provided is not nearly so detailed.

The records available at the Family History Library were acquired from the War Archives (*Kriegsarchiv*) in Vienna. They include records for soldiers from Galicia, which is now the southern part of Poland.

Muster rolls and foundation books are personnel files on all Austrian soldiers. They provide names, birthplaces and dates, religions, personal descriptions, dates of induction, and remarks. The archive in Vienna has these records through 1869, and these are the only records that have been microfilmed. The records are arranged by regiment or unit and time period.

You must determine the military unit your ancestor belonged to. If the records of your ancestor do not provide this information, it may be possible to learn which units were inducted in the area where he lived. To do this, you must know at least the town where he was living when he was of age to serve in the military.

For the most part, foundation books of Polish soldiers after 1869 have been turned over to the Polish government. These later records are in Polish military archives and are not accessible for genealogical researchers.

Qualification lists of officers are arranged alphabetically for the whole Austrian empire for 1828–1918. They provide names of officers, personal descriptions, dates and places of birth, religions, and service records, including units served in, commands, and decorations.

Military records in Vienna are being microfilmed by the Family History Department. More information on these records is found in:

Blodgett, Steven W. *Great-grandfather was in the Imperial Cavalry: using Austrian Military Records as an Aid to Writing Family History*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Corporation of the President, 1980. (FHL book 929.1 W893 1980 v. 7 pt. 4; fiche 6085770.)

Military records can be of great genealogical value but are not generally practical for research. They are



difficult to access, organized poorly, and not indexed. Other sources, such as church records and civil registration, are more accessible and contain much of the same information.

## MINORITIES

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Poland has had many minorities, including Jews, Gypsies, Brethren, Calvinists, and Mennonites. You should learn the history of the ethnic, racial, and religious groups your ancestors belonged to. This historical background can help you identify where your ancestors lived and when they lived there, where they migrated, the types of records they might be listed in, and other information to help you understand your family's history.

For some minorities in Poland there are unique resources available, such as histories, gazetteers, biographical sources, settlement patterns, and handbooks. The Family History Library collects records of these groups, especially published histories. These are listed in the *Family History Library Catalog* locality section under:

POLAND - MINORITIES  
POLAND, (COUNTY) - MINORITIES  
POLAND - JEWISH HISTORY

Other sources are also in the subject section of the catalog under the name of the minority, such as Jews, Germans, or Mennonites. Some sources are listed under:

JEWS - POLAND

An example of the type of book you might find is:

Hagen, William W. *Germans, Poles and Jews: The Nationality Conflict in the Prussian East, 1772–1914*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980. (FHL book 943 F2hw.)

The Family History Library also has several books about Poles in other countries. These are listed in the locality and topic sections of the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

(COUNTRY NAME) - MINORITIES  
POLES - (COUNTRY NAME)

In the United States, Germany, and other countries where members of these ethnic groups migrated, various local and national societies have been organized to gather, preserve, and share the cultural contributions and histories of Polish minority groups.

## NAMES, PERSONAL

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Understanding surnames and given names can help you find and identify ancestors in records.

### Surnames

Before record keeping began, most people had only one name, such as John. As the population increased, it became necessary to distinguish between individuals with the same name. The problem was usually solved by adding descriptive information. John became John the smith, John the son of Matthew, John the short, or John from Breslau. At first “surnames” applied only to one person and not to the whole family. After a few generations, these names became hereditary and were used from father to son.

Polish surnames developed from four major sources:

- Occupational, based on the person's trade, such as Kowalski (Smith)
- Descriptive or Nickname, based on a unique quality of the person, such as Młody (Young)
- Geographical, based on a person's residence, such as Podleski (Underwood)
- Patronymic, based on a person's father's given name, such as Janowicz (son of Jan, that is, Johnson)

Surnames were first used by the nobility and wealthy landowners. Later the custom was followed by merchants and townspeople and eventually by the rural population. This process took two or three centuries. In Poland the practice was well established by the 1500s. It is not possible to determine the exact year or even the century when a particular family name was taken.

*Alias Surnames.* In some areas of Poland people may have taken a second surname. In the records this may be preceded by the word *alias*, *vulgo*, *vel*, or *genannt*. This practice is rare and was done mainly because of property ownership. It can be found in certain parts of Silesia.

*Jewish Naming Customs.* Before 1808 the use of a family name by Jews was left to the discretion of the individual. Jews in Poland usually used only a given name and the name of their father, such as Isaac, son of Abraham. Most Jews did not adopt hereditary family names until required to do so by law. Jews in the Austrian territory of Galicia were required to adopt surnames in 1785. In 1808 Napoleon made a similar decree for all the Jews of his empire, including the Duchy of Warsaw. In 1844 Jews were again required to adopt surnames because of noncompliance.

### Language Effects on Polish Names

Polish genealogical records may be in Polish, Latin, Russian, or German. Your ancestor's name could be in Latin on his birth record, Polish on his marriage record, and German on his death record. Surnames or given names are often very different when translated into different languages.

Polish	Latin	German
Elżbieta	Elisabetha	Elisabethe
Katarzyna	Catharina	Katharine
Jan	Joannes	Johann
Wojciech	Adalbertus	Albrecht
Wawrzyniec	Laurentius	Lorentz
Franciszek	Franciscus	Franz

A book showing given names in 23 different European languages, including English, is:

Janowowa, Wanda, et al. *Słownik imion* (Dictionary of Names). Wrocław: Ossoliński, 1975. (FHL book 940 D4s; film 1181578 item 2; fiche 6000839.)

### Grammatical Effects on Polish Names

Polish grammar affects given names, surnames, and place-names. Surnames are affected by gender endings, such as the following example:

family name (masculine) = Grala  
unmarried woman = Gralówna  
a married woman = Gralowa

In the case of the family name of Kowalski, the male name would be written as Kowalski and the female as Kowalska. Although these endings can be confusing, it is important to note that these changes do not indicate different families.

The Polish language uses grammatical endings to indicate such things as possession, objects of a verb, or objects of a preposition. To one unfamiliar with Polish this could cause confusion. Always record names and places in their nominative case.

The following is an example of how case endings change surnames in a typical birth entry:

Józef, syn Antona Grabowskiego i Anny z Nowaków Grabowskich w Warszawie  
Józef, son of Anton Grabowski and Anna (maiden name Nowak) Grabowska in Warszawa (Warsaw).

A good book about Polish surnames is:

Hoffman, William F. *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings*. Chicago: Polish Genealogical Society of America, 1997. (FHL book 943.8 D46h.)

### Given Names

Most Polish given names are derived from biblical names, such as Józef (Joseph); from the names of saints, such as Jan (John); or from Old Slavic names, such as Władisław.

When baptized, children were usually given only one, or possibly two, given names. Some of these may be the names of parents or other relatives or possibly the names of the godparents.

In Poland the child was usually called by the name given at baptism. However, if the baptism record shows a Latin given name of Adalbertus, this is not what that child would be called. Rather, he would be called by the Polish version of his name, which would be Wojciech.

No particular naming pattern for given names was used in Poland as was common in other European countries. In Poland each day of the year is assigned a saint's name and it is often noted in the church records that on that given day every girl and boy was named for that particular saint, making it appear that each parent had chosen the same name as everyone else for their child.

Some books are available that discuss names in Poland and their meanings. One book that provides meanings, variations, and dates when a particular given name was first recorded is:

Bubak, Józef, *Księga naszych imion* (Book of Given Names). Wrocław: Zakład Narodowy im. Ossoliński, 1993. (FHL book 943.8 D4b.)

## **NOBILITY**

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Many family traditions of descent from a noble ancestor turn out, on investigation, to have little foundation in fact. Members of the nobility did not emigrate in as large numbers as other social classes. Their emigration was generally caused by political events, such as the partitions and unsuccessful uprisings, in contrast to others whose motivations were usually economic.

Also, contrary to prevailing opinion, it was *not* customary to disown members of noble families for unacceptable behavior. Thus, traditions of an ancestor being erased from all records are unfounded. Illegitimate children, while not entitled to noble status, were often recorded (although the father may not have been named) and can be found in the vital records.

All nobles were equal before the law. The nobility comprised over 10% of the Polish population. Membership in the nobility was mainly hereditary, although members of the middle class were occasionally ennobled and some foreign nobles joined Polish ranks.

Authorizations of nobility underwent major reforms after the Polish partitions. The three partitioning countries each introduced new rules. All three required nobles to own land, and Russia and Austria

distinguished between lords and knights (Austria conferred the titles of prince and count on nobles and baron on knights). In 1782 Austrian Poland established the "register of proven noble ancestry" in Lemberg (Lwów), which granted noble status and enforced nobility regulations. In Prussia Polish heraldic affairs were under the jurisdiction of governmental agencies in Berlin. From 1855 verification of nobility was handled by the *Heroldsamt*.

After 1815, during the period of the Congress Poland, there were some reversals. Privileges of the nobles that had been in force before the partition were partially restored. In 1836 a heraldic office was established to prepare an armorial of coats of arms proven to be legitimate, but the project was never completed. In 1870 all heraldic affairs were transferred to St. Petersburg. In 1921 the constitution of the Republic of Poland abolished the noble class and its titles.

Because of frequent false claims to nobility, families had to legitimize (provide documentary proof of) their nobility. Rich sources of information about nobility include judicial court proceedings and land records. Information is also available from some private archival collections at the Archiwum Akt Głównych, Archiwum Akt Nowych in Warsaw; the provincial archive of Kraków; and many other provincial archives.

If your research in the original records of Poland indicates that your ancestor was actually of the noble class, there are additional records that will be helpful in your research. Although some original records (such as the grant of nobility) are still in existence, you can adequately accomplish most nobility research in secondary sources, including published or manuscript genealogies of noble families. The noble class has been anxious to preserve their identity. This has led to the publication of many noble lines of Poland. Several publications are available to help you trace a noble family. Some of the most important are:

Leitgeber, Sławomir, *Polska szlachta i jej herby* (Heraldry and genealogy of noble families of Poland). [s.n.], 1970–73. (FHL book 943.8 D6l; film 0897006, 0873838-9, 1181536.) This series consists of 41 sections in 5 volumes.

Korwin, Ludwik. *Szlachta Polska pochodzenia żydowskiego* (Polish nobility of Jewish extraction). London: [s.n.], 1975 (Film 1045233.)

Frank zu Döfering, Karl Friedrich von. *Alt österreichisches Adels Lexikon* (Lexicon of old Austrian noble families). Wien: Frank zu Döfering, 1928. (FHL book 943.6 D56f; film 1440774 item 1.) This book provides old Austrian noble families for areas of Poland, Austria, and Hungary.

See also “Heraldry” and “Genealogy” in this outline. The Family History Library has collected many records of noble families, which are listed in the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

POLAND - NOBILITY  
POLAND, (COUNTY) - NOBILITY  
POLAND, (COUNTY), (TOWN) - NOBILITY

## PERIODICALS

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Some societies and organizations in Poland publish genealogical periodicals in Polish. Many other genealogical and historical societies and organizations with interest in Poland publish English-speaking periodicals. Much of their content is devoted to research helps, indexes, and compiled genealogies. The articles often include:

- Family genealogies and pedigrees.
- Transcripts of church records, migration lists, and cemetery records.
- Helpful articles on research methodology.
- Information about local records, archives, and services.
- Book advertisements and book reviews.
- Research advertisements.
- Queries or requests for information about specific ancestors that can help you contact other interested researchers.

### Obtaining Periodicals

Copies of periodicals are available from the local societies that publish them. Archives with major genealogical collections will have copies of many

periodicals, particularly those representing the area they serve.

Although not many Polish genealogical periodicals have been published, many good periodicals have been published by Polish-American societies. Of particular note are the publications of the Polish Genealogical Society in Chicago and the Federation of East European family history centers:

*Rodziny: The Journal of the Polish Genealogical Society of America*. Chicago: Polish Genealogical Society, 1992–. (FHL book 943.8 D25p.) Previously called *Polish Genealogical Society Newsletter* (1979–92). The society also produced a bulletin (FHL book 943.8 D25pb).

*Newsletter of the Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies (FEEFHS)*. (FHL book 940 C4f.)

Some excellent publications that are centered on immigrants from Galicia are:

*Galicia: The Galician Genealogical Magazine*. Wroclaw: Alleum, 1996–. (FHL book 943.86 D25gg.)

*The Galitzianer*. Chevy Chase, Md.: Gesher Galicia, 1993–. (FHL book 943.86 F25g.) Information on Jews from Galicia, Austria (now part of Poland and Ukraine).

*Galitzien German Descendants*. Kent, Wash.: Galizien German Descendants, 1995–. (FHL book 943.86 D25g.) Dedicated to family history research of German descendants from Galicia. Includes how-to articles on doing genealogical research in Galicia.

Many other Polish-American genealogical societies publish periodicals and newsletters. These contain many useful articles about research in Poland, archives in Poland, and local Polish-American communities and people. Two good examples are:

*The Polish Eaglet*. Detroit: Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, 1995–. (FHL book 977.4 D25p.) Called *The Eaglet* 1981–95.



*Pathways & Passages*. New Britain, Conn.:  
Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut,  
1984-. (FHL book 974.6 F25p.)

There are many other genealogical periodicals. Try to learn if there is a society in the area where your Polish ancestors settled. Polish societies with newsletters exist in Minnesota, Texas, Wisconsin, and many other states.

The Family History Library subscribes to the newsletters of most Polish genealogical societies as well as other journals and magazines relating to Poland. These are listed in the *Family History Library Catalog* several ways. If you know the title of a periodical, search the Author/Title section. To find periodicals in the locality section of the catalog, use the following approaches:

POLAND - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS  
POLAND - HISTORY - PERIODICALS  
POLAND - PERIODICALS  
POLAND - SOCIETIES - PERIODICALS  
POLAND, (COUNTY) - [SAME HEADINGS  
AS ABOVE]  
POLAND, (COUNTY), (CITY) - [SAME  
HEADINGS AS ABOVE]  
(STATE) - [SAME HEADINGS AS ABOVE]

See also "Societies" in this outline.

## **PROBATE RECORDS**

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Probate records are court records that describe the distribution of a person's estate after he or she dies. Information in the records may include the death date, names of heirs and guardians, relationships, residences, an inventory of the estate, and names of witnesses.

Probate records are not useful in Polish research. Other sources, such as church records and civil registration, cover more of the population, and probate records are difficult to access. Very few probate records have been microfilmed.

Usually only people who owned property and their relatives are mentioned in probate records. In Poland this included only a small percent of the population. Most farmers, merchants, and artisans did not own their own farms or shops.

The Family History Library does not have copies of the probate records for Poland. These records may still be found in local probate offices or local courts or archives. If you think probate records could be helpful to your research, write to the head directorate of Polish state archives to inquire about access to these records. See the *Polish Letter Writing Guide* (36339).

## **SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS**

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Knowing about the society your ancestor lived in can help you in your research. Learning about everyday life, religious practices, customs, and traditions is particularly helpful if you choose to write a history of your family. Research procedures and genealogical sources are different for each area and time period and are affected by the local customs and traditions.

The Family History Library does not have many books related to the social life and customs in Poland. You will probably find more books of this sort through a public or university library. The sources that are available at the Family History Library are listed in the catalog under:

POLAND - SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS  
POLAND, (COUNTY) - SOCIAL LIFE AND  
CUSTOMS

## **SOCIETIES**

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Many societies and organizations have information that would help you in your genealogical research. There are only a few such societies in Poland, but there are numerous societies dedicated to Polish genealogy in the countries Poles immigrated to, especially the United States. You may find it helpful to join one of these societies and support its efforts.

Most of these societies have web sites on the Internet. Most are also members of the Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS). Individuals may also join FEEFHS and receive its journal. This organization has a web site, with links to its member societies, at:

<http://www.FEEFHS.org>



## Genealogical Societies

Several genealogical societies emphasize Polish research. Most of these societies publish helpful periodicals, transcripts, and compiled genealogies and may have special indexes, collections, and projects. Many publish queries about Polish ancestors or maintain a list of members' research interests. Some specialize in the immigrants to a specific area.

The following societies may be of interest:

Polish Genealogical Society of America  
984 North Milwaukee Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60622

Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan  
Burton Historical Collection  
Detroit Public Library  
5201 Woodward Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48202

Polish Genealogical Society of Texas  
Route 1, Box 475-S  
Navasota, TX 77068

Polish Genealogical Society of California  
P.O. Box 713  
Midway City, CA 92655-0713

## Historical Societies

Historical societies can be valuable sources of information on Poland. Similar societies exist in countries where Polish emigrants settled. These societies often collect information about Polish immigrants. Some may have information about specific Polish individuals. Many societies have special collections of books and manuscript material for Poland that may be difficult to find in libraries and archives. You may be interested in the services, activities, and collections of the following historical societies:

Immigration History Research Center  
University of Minnesota  
826 Berry Street  
St. Paul, MN 55114-1076

Polish American Archives  
Alumni Memorial Library  
St. Mary's College  
The Orchard Lake School  
Orchard Lake, MI 48033

## Fraternal Societies

Your ancestor or relative may have belonged to an association, lodge, or fraternal society whose membership is based on common interests, religion, or ethnicity. These societies were involved in political, social, and financial activities, including life and burial insurance.

Several sources, such as local histories, biographies, obituaries, tombstones, family records, and artifacts, may give you clues that an ancestor belonged to a fraternal society. Examples of these societies include:

Alliance of Poles of America (1895)  
6966 Broadway Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44105

Association of Polish Women of the United States  
7526 Broadway Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44105

Association of Sons of Poland  
665 Newark Ave.  
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Polish National Alliance of the United States of North America  
6100 North Cicero Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60622

Polish Roman Catholic Union  
984 North Milwaukee Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60622

For more information about fraternal societies in North America, see:

Chorzempa, Rosemary A. *Polish Roots*.  
Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co.,  
1993. (FHL book 943.8 D27c.)

You may be able to get genealogical information from fraternal organizations by writing to them.

## Locating Records at the Family History Library

Records of these societies are usually described in the Author/Title section of the *Family History Library Catalog* under the name of the society. They are also listed in the locality section of the catalog under:

POLAND - SOCIETIES

POLAND, (COUNTY) - SOCIETIES  
POLAND - GENEALOGY  
POLAND, (COUNTY) - GENEALOGY

Some records gathered by societies are listed in the locality section of the *Family History Library Catalog* under the type of record. For example, cemetery transcripts gathered by a genealogical society are listed in the catalog under:

POLAND, (COUNTY) - CEMETERIES

Lists and guides that describe the collections of societies are listed in the locality section of the *Family History Library Catalog* under:

POLAND - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES -  
INVENTORIES, REGISTERS, CATALOGS  
POLAND, (COUNTY) - ARCHIVES AND  
LIBRARIES - INVENTORIES,  
REGISTERS, CATALOGS  
POLAND, (COUNTY), (TOWN) - ARCHIVES  
AND LIBRARIES - INVENTORIES,  
REGISTERS, CATALOGS

## **OTHER RECORDS**

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The topics listed below can be found in the locality section of the *Family History Library Catalog* after the locality. For example:

POLAND - (TOPIC)  
POLAND, (COUNTY) - (TOPIC)  
POLAND, (COUNTY), (TOWN) - (TOPIC)

Though not discussed in this outline, the following catalog topics may be useful to your research:

BIBLIOGRAPHY  
BUSINESS RECORDS AND COMMERCE  
CEMETERIES  
DESCRIPTION AND TRAVEL  
DIRECTORIES  
ETHNOLOGY  
HANDWRITING  
JEWISH HISTORY  
LAW AND LEGISLATION  
MIGRATION, INTERNAL  
MILITARY HISTORY  
NAMES, GEOGRAPHICAL  
NEWSPAPERS  
OBITUARIES  
OCCUPATIONS  
OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES  
POPULATION

POSTAL AND SHIPPING GUIDES  
PUBLIC RECORDS  
RELIGION AND RELIGIOUS LIFE  
SCHOOLS

## **FOR FURTHER READING**

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More detailed information about researching Polish records can be found in:

Chorzempa, Rosemary A. *Polish Roots*.  
Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co.,  
Inc. 1993.(FHL book 943.8 D27c.)

Gnacinski, Jan and Len. *Polish and Proud:  
Tracing Your Polish Ancestry*. Indianapolis,  
IN: Ye Olde Genealogie Shoppe, 1983. (FHL  
book 943.8 D27g.)

Hoskins, Janina W. *Polish genealogy &  
Heraldry*. Washington D.C.: Library of  
Congress, 1987.(FHL book 943.8 D27h.)

## **COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

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The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

Publications Coordination  
Family History Library  
35 North West Temple  
Salt Lake City, UT 84150  
USA

We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

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Printed in the USA  
English approval: 6/04

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THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

ENGLISH

